

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1. A magnetoresistive head comprising:  
2           a pinned layer;  
3           a free layer; and  
4           a non-magnetic spacer film formed between the pinned layer and the free layer;  
5           wherein the pinned layer has a first ferromagnetic film and a second  
6 ferromagnetic film anti-ferromagnetically coupled to each other by way of an anti-ferromagnetic  
7 coupling film; and  
8           a coercivity of the first ferromagnetic film is 200 Oe or more and a coercivity of  
9 the second ferromagnetic film is 20 Oe or less.

1           2. A magnetoresistive head comprising:  
2           a pinned layer;  
3           a free layer; and  
4           a non-magnetic spacer film formed between the pinned layer and the free layer;  
5           wherein the pinned layer has a first ferromagnetic film and a second  
6 ferromagnetic film anti-ferromagnetically coupled to each other by way of an anti-ferromagnetic  
7 coupling film;  
8           a composition of the first ferromagnetic film is within a range of:  $\text{Co}_{100-X}\text{Fe}_X$   
9 (at%)  $40 \leq X \leq 80$ ; and  
10           a composition of the second ferromagnetic film is within a range of:  $\text{Co}_{100-Y}\text{Fe}_Y$   
11 (at%)  $0 \leq Y \leq 20$ .

1           3. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the anti-  
2 ferromagnetic coupling film is formed of Ru and has a thickness within a range from 3.0 to  
3 4.0 Å.

1           4. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a relation between  
2 an imaginal thickness  $DA_0$  of the first ferromagnetic film that has a magnetic moment equal to a  
3 magnetic moment of the second ferromagnetic film and a thickness  $DA$  of the first ferromagnetic  
4 film satisfies:

5                    $0.0227 \leq (DA - DA_0)/DA_0 \leq 0.136.$

1                   5. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 4, wherein the magnetic moment  
2 of the first ferromagnetic film is larger than that of the second ferromagnetic film.

1                   6. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a layer in contact  
2 with the first ferromagnetic film is formed from one of Ru, Ta, Cu, and NiFeCr.

1                   7. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:  
2 the free layer is on the side of a substrate and the pinned layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the free layer; and  
4 wherein the magnetoresistive head has an underlayer adjacent to the free layer,  
5 the underlayer having an NiFeCr layer on the side of the substrate.

1                   8. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 3, wherein:  
2 the free layer is on the side of a substrate and the pinned layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the free layer; and  
4 wherein the magnetoresistive head has an underlayer adjacent to the free layer,  
5 the underlayer having an NiFeCr layer on the side of the substrate.

1                   9. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 4, wherein:  
2 the free layer is on the side of a substrate and the pinned layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the free layer; and  
4 wherein the magnetoresistive head has an underlayer adjacent to the free layer,  
5 the underlayer having an NiFeCr layer on the side of the substrate.

1                   10. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 5, wherein:  
2 the free layer is on the side of a substrate and the pinned layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the free layer; and  
4 wherein the magnetoresistive head has an underlayer adjacent to the free layer,  
5 the underlayer having an NiFeCr layer on the side of the substrate.

1                   11. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 6, wherein:

2 the free layer is on the side of a substrate and the pinned layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the free layer; and  
4 wherein the magnetoresistive head has an underlayer adjacent to the free layer,  
5 the underlayer having an NiFeCr layer on the side of the substrate.

1 12. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:  
2 the pinned layer is on the side of the substrate and the free layer is on a side  
3 remote from the substrate relative to the pinned layer; and  
4 wherein an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the  
5 substrate comprises a stack of NiFeCr and Ru, a stack of NiFeCr, Ru, and NiFe, or a stack of  
6 NiFeCr, Ru, NiFe and Cu, in order from the side of the substrate.

1 13. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 3, wherein:  
2 the pinned layer is on the side of the substrate and the free layer is on a side  
3 remote from the substrate relative to the pinned layer; and  
4 wherein an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the  
5 substrate comprises a stack of NiFeCr and Ru, a stack of NiFeCr, Ru, and NiFe, or a stack of  
6 NiFeCr, Ru, NiFe and Cu, in order from the side of the substrate.

1 14. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 4, wherein:  
2 the pinned layer is on the side of the substrate and the free layer is on a side  
3 remote from the substrate relative to the pinned layer; and  
4 wherein an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the  
5 substrate comprises a stack of NiFeCr and Ru, a stack of NiFeCr, Ru, and NiFe, or a stack of  
6 NiFeCr, Ru, NiFe and Cu, in order from the side of the substrate.

1 15. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 5, wherein:  
2 the pinned layer is on the side of the substrate and the free layer is on a side  
3 remote from the substrate relative to the pinned layer; and  
4 wherein an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the  
5 substrate comprises a stack of NiFeCr and Ru, a stack of NiFeCr, Ru, and NiFe, or a stack of  
6 NiFeCr, Ru, NiFe and Cu, in order from the side of the substrate.

1           16. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 6, wherein:  
2           the pinned layer is on the side of the substrate and the free layer is on a side  
3 remote from the substrate relative to the pinned layer; and  
4           wherein an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the  
5 substrate comprises a stack of NiFeCr and Ru, a stack of NiFeCr, Ru, and NiFe, or a stack of  
6 NiFeCr, Ru, NiFe and Cu, in order from the side of the substrate.

1           17. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 1 or 2, wherein:  
2           the fixed layer is on the side of a substrate and the free layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the fixed layer; and  
4           an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the substrate  
5 comprises a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Ru, or a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Cu, in  
6 order from the side of the substrate.

1           18. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 3, wherein:  
2           the fixed layer is on the side of a substrate and the free layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the fixed layer; and  
4           an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the substrate  
5 comprises a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Ru, or a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Cu, in  
6 order from the side of the substrate.

1           19. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 4, wherein:  
2           the fixed layer is on the side of a substrate and the free layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the fixed layer; and  
4           an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the substrate  
5 comprises a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Ru, or a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Cu, in  
6 order from the side of the substrate.

1           20. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 5, wherein:  
2           the fixed layer is on the side of a substrate and the free layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the fixed layer; and

4 an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the substrate  
5 comprises a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Ru, or a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Cu, in  
6 order from the side of the substrate.

1 21. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 6, wherein:  
2 the fixed layer is on the side of a substrate and the free layer is on a side remote  
3 from the substrate relative to the fixed layer; and  
4 an underlayer adjacent to the first ferromagnetic film on the side of the substrate  
5 comprises a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Ru, or a stack of NiFeCr, NiFe, PtMn and Cu, in  
6 order from the side of the substrate.

1 22. A magnetoresistive head comprising:  
2 a first pinned layer;  
3 a second pinned layer;  
4 a free layer;  
5 a non-magnetic spacer film formed between the first pinned layer and the free  
6 layer; and  
7 another non-magnetic spacer film formed between the second pinned layer and  
8 the free layer;  
9 wherein each of the first and the second pinned layer has a first ferromagnetic  
10 film and a second ferromagnetic film anti-ferromagnetically coupled with each other by way of  
11 an anti-ferromagnetic coupling film; and  
12 a coercivity of the first ferromagnetic film is 200 Oe or more and a coercivity of  
13 the second magnetic layer is 20 Oe or less.

1 23. A magnetoresistive head comprising:  
2 a first pinned layer;  
3 a second pinned layer;  
4 a free layer;  
5 a non-magnetic spacer film formed between the first pinned layer and the free  
6 layer; and

another non-magnetic spacer film formed between the second pinned layer and the free layer;

wherein each of the first and the second pinned layer has a first ferromagnetic film and a second ferromagnetic film anti-ferromagnetically coupled with each other by way of an anti-ferromagnetic coupling film; and

wherein a composition of each of the first ferromagnetic films disposed in each of the first pinned layer and the second pinned layer is within a range of:  $\text{Co}_{100-X}\text{Fe}_X$  (at%)  $40 \leq X \leq 80$ , and

a composition of the second ferromagnetic film is within a range of:  $\text{Co}_{100-Y}\text{Fe}_Y$  (at%)  $0 \leq Y \leq 20$ .

24. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 22 or 23, wherein each of the anti-ferromagnetic coupling films of the first pinned layer and the second pinned layer is made of Ru and has a thickness within a range from 3.0 to 4.0 Å.

25. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 22 or 23, wherein a relation between the imaginal thickness  $DA_0$  of the first ferromagnetic film that has a magnetic moment equal to the magnetic moment of the second ferromagnetic film and a thickness  $DA$  of the first ferromagnetic film satisfies:

$$0.0227 \leq (DA - DA_0)/DA_0 \leq 0.136.$$

26. A magnetoresistive head according to claim 25, wherein the magnetic moment of the first ferromagnetic film is larger than that of the second ferromagnetic film.

27. A method of manufacturing a magnetoresistive head comprising a pinned layer having a first ferromagnetic film and a second ferromagnetic film anti-ferromagnetically coupled with each other by way of an anti-ferromagnetic coupling film, a free layer and a permanent magnet film disposed at an end of the free layer, said method comprising:

a first magnetic field application step of applying a magnetic field in a desired direction different from a direction of a magnetic moment magnetized to the pinned layer; and

7 a second magnetic field application step of applying a magnetic field in a  
8 direction different from the direction of the magnetic field application in the first magnetic field  
9 application step.

1 28. A method of manufacturing a magnetoresistive head according to claim 27,  
2 wherein the following relation is satisfied:

3  $H_1 \geq 0.4 H_s$

4  $H_c \leq H_2 \leq 0.35 H_s,$

5 where

6  $H_s$  is a saturation magnetic field that brings respective magnetic moments of the first  
7 ferromagnetic film and the second ferromagnetic film antiparallel to each other into a parallel  
8 state,

9  $H_c$  is the coercivity of the permanent magnetic layer,

10  $H_1$  is a magnitude of an application magnetic field in the first magnetic field application  
11 step, and

12  $H_2$  is a magnitude of an application magnetic field in the step of applying the second  
13 magnetic field.